## Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 03300 211201Z

53

**ACTION AID-59** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 L-02 EB-07 IGA-01 NSC-05 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AGR-10 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/105 W

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P 211043Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3971

**UNCLAS SAIGON 3300** 

PASS NSC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PL-480 TITLE I, WHEAT

REF .: STATE 048696

- 1. GVN/USAID CONCERNED ABOUT WHEAT SUPPLY SITUATION.
- 2. BASED ON PROPOSED FY '75 ALLOTMENT PER REFTEL, USAID INITIATED IN DEPTH REVIEW CURRENT SITUATION WITH GVN AND IMPORTERS. WE ARE NOW CONCERNED THAT PROPOSED LEVEL COULD RESULT IN PANIC FLOUR PURCHASING DUE TO EARLY SHORTAGES OR A NEED FOR THE GVN TO USE ITS DECLINING FX FOR WHEAT IMPORTS. BELOW ARE THE UNDERLYING STATISTICS MARSHALLED BY USAID:
- A. ESTIMATED WHEAT STOCKS AS OF MARCH 31: 2,000 MT
- B. EXPECTED ARRIVALS MARCH 22 THROUGH END JULY:  $75,000~\mathrm{MT}$
- C. TOTAL AVAILABLE WHEAT: 77,000 MT
- D. MONTHLY WHEAT UTILIZATION BASED ON LAST FIVE MONTHS (OCT 74 FEB 75) AVERAGE: 11,000 MT
- E. DEPLETION OF WHEAT SUPPLY IF MINIMUM SECURITY STOCK UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03300 211201Z

OF 11,000 MT CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL AT END OF

PERIOD: END SEPT '75

3. USAID BELIEVES 11,000 MT UTILIZATION FIGURE MAY BE LOW SINCE MONTHLY AVERAGE UTILIZATION HAS BEEN INCREASING SUBSTANTIALLY AND CONTINUOUSLY SINCE APRIL 1974 AS FOLLOWSPC

APRIL/JUNE 3,783 MT JULY/SEPT 8,893 MT OCT/DEC 10,753 MT JAN/FEB 11,337 MT

- 4. FIRST WHEAT PA UNDER FY '75 AGREEMENT WAS CSSUED JAN 31 AND FIRST SHIPMENT OF 5,000 MT IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE MARCH 22. THUS, IT TAKES ABOUT TWO MONTHS FROM PA FOR A SHIPMENT TO ARRIVE.
- 5. THEREFORE, IN ORDER TO AVOID UNDERSIRABLE EFFECTS OF THREATENED WHEAT S
  ORTAGE IN SEPTEMBER, USAID URGES AUTHORIZATION ADDITIONAL 15,000 MT WHEAT UNDER FY '75 AGREEMENT WITH
  ASSURANCE THAT ADDITIONAL WHEAT UNDER FY '76 AGREEMENT CAN BE
  AUTHORIZED PRIOR END OF AUGUST.
- 6. IF FURTHER WHEAT UNDER FY '75 AGREEMENT CANNOT BE MADE AVAILABLE,; USAID WOULD NEED REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT FH '76 AGCEEMENT COVERING WHEAT CAN BE AUTHORIZED PRIOR JULY 31, 1975. LEHMANN

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NNN

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